

REMARKS

The Examiner has requested that Figure 8 of the drawings be amended to include the designation "Prior Art". The Applicant is including herein a replacement sheet showing Figure 8 marked as Prior Art.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsubo in view of Ishii. Independent claims 1 and 13 recite slot lengths that increase from a central portion to a first intermediate portion and then the slot lengths are maintained from the first intermediate portion to at least a point between the first intermediate portion and a peripheral portion. Newly added claims 15 and 23 recite similar language except the slot lengths decrease from the central portion to the first intermediate portion. All of the claims require either an increase or a decrease in slot length to a first intermediate portion and then maintaining the slot length to at least a point between the first intermediate portion and a peripheral portion of the antenna. The Applicant submits that even if there was a motivation to combine Otsubo and Ishii, the combination would not create the claimed invention.

Ishii discloses an antenna which has groups of slots wherein within each group the slot length increases from the center toward the peripheral of the antenna. Ishii does not disclose or suggest to have an area where the slot length is maintained as recited in the claims. Likewise, Otsubo does not disclose increasing or decreasing the slot lengths from a central portion to a first intermediate portion and then maintaining the slot lengths in another area of the antenna extending from the first intermediate portion to a peripheral portion. Figures 8 and 9 of Otsubo disclose two rings of slots, the outer ring having slot lengths larger than the inner ring slots. Otsubo does not show an antennae area between a first intermediate portion and a peripheral portion that has the same slot lengths. Although the text of Otsubo mentions double or triple structures, there is a complete lack of specificity on the detail of the slot lengths.

Neither Otsubo or Ishii disclose an antenna with slot lengths that either increase or decrease from a central portion to a first intermediate portion and then have the same slot lengths from the first intermediate portion to at least a point between the first intermediate and peripheral portions as recited in the claims. Lacking such a disclose, one of ordinary skill in the art would not construct the claimed antenna in the manner recited without being a

blueprint for doing so from the prior art. For all of the above reasons, the Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 7-10, 13 and 14 are not obvious over Otsubo and Ishii.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsubo in view of Ishii and in further view of Watanabe. The Applicant has cancelled claims 5, 6 and 12. The Applicant submits that claim 11 is allowable for being dependent upon allowable claim 8.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7-11, and 13-23 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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